

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING AND FEEDING
PRINTING PLATES IN AN IMAGING SYSTEM

Abstract Of The Disclosure

The present invention provides an apparatus and method for supporting and feeding printing plates in an imaging system. The apparatus comprises a vacuum system for picking up an edge of a top printing plate from a stack of printing plates, and a peeling system including a pair of rotatable belts, a plurality of plate feed beams attached to, and extending between, the pair of rotatable belts, and a drive system for rotating the pair of rotatable belts to displace the plurality of plate feed beams between the top printing plate and an underlying printing plate in the stack of printing plates, thereby peeling the top printing plate from the stack of printing plates.